

Annex 1: Template for Country Commitments

Recognizing the enormous pressures and significant uncertainties facing governments and policymakers at this time, and the need to ensure commitments are credible, the following principles are designed to guide their formulation.

| VOLUME COMMITMENT | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Basis for commitment (%) | | | | | | |
| Please select one of the boxes below (click on the box): | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Education expenditure as a share of total budget <i>(incl. debt servicing)</i> | Education expenditure as a share of total budget <i>(excl. debt servicing)</i> | Education expenditure as a share of GDP | Per capita education expenditure as a share of per capita GDP <i>(by sub-sector)</i> | Other % (please specify) | | |
| Description of education budget perimeter | | | | | | |
| <i>Please list all line ministries responsible for elements included in the calculation of education expenditures. Ideally this description should identify where in the national budget relevant elements are recorded.</i> | | | | | | |
| Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs | | | | | | |
| Historical and projected expenditures (%) | | | | | | |
| <i>Please include all available historical expenditures (executed budget), as well final projected value for the year in which your commitment ends. Inclusion of intermediate values are encouraged but not required. If your commitment ends before 2025 (the duration of GPE's new strategic plan) please provide a brief rationale below (eg. alignment of commitment duration with country MTEF).</i> | | | | | | |
| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| 16 | 17 | 14 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Rationale (optional): | | | | | | |

The drop in expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure in 2019, 2020 and 2021 could be attributed to the following:

In 2019:

- ✓ **Increase in Debt Service Payment**

As at end 2018, the country was in a debt distress situation. The Gambia's public debt was at 89.1 percent of GDP, which posed significant challenges. As public debt management is a necessity for achieving macroeconomic growth and stability that would promote government's accountability and transparency, in 2019; the Government implemented robust debt management strategies to meet government's financing requirements and at the same time achieve public debt sustainability in the medium to long term. Achieving debt sustainability is a key requirement in securing an Extended Credit Facility (ECF) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and also an economic program for countries. (MoFEA, 2019 Public Debt Bulletin)

To this vein, total debt service payment has increased by 18.0 per cent in 2019 there by decreasing nominal debt as percentage of GDP from 89.1 per cent as at end 2018 to 80.1 per cent as at end 2019 and also consistently, the present value (PV) of debt to GDP decreased from 76.1 per cent in 2018 to 67.8 per cent in 2019.

✓ **50% Salary and 100% pension Increments by government**

In 2019, government increased salaries of government workers by 50 percent and pensions by 100 percent. As a result of these increments, expenditure on government operations (salaries and other goods and services) constituted the highest share of 53.47 percent of total expenditure during 2019.

The aforementioned policy shifts by government really affected government commitment to MoBSE in 2019.

In 2020:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, compounding existing disparities by reducing the opportunities for the most vulnerable, including persons with special needs and people living in remote areas as well as exacerbating education funding gaps.

Most of the resources were diverted to Covid-19 prevention and mitigating mechanisms thereby reducing spending on education.

In 2021:

2021 is election year for the Gambia and a lot of resources has been committed to the conduct of elections. As a result, there is a significant drop in approved estimate for education expenditure.

OTHER INDICATIVE POLICY COMMITMENTS

Please describe here any significant policy commitments on equity and efficiency on areas of priority for your country. These might include gender, equality, better management of the teacher workforce, improvements in timeliness and accessibility of data for mutual accountability, national recovery stimulus spending targeting education, as well cross sector imperatives, including restoring/expanding school health and nutrition programs to leave no one behind etc. We also encourage commitments to strengthen the working relationship between Ministries of Finance and Education.

- Maintain the share of enrolment of girls to 50% of total enrolment at the levels of basic and secondary education
- Increase the supply of trained teachers and make more efficient use of the teaching force by maintaining the pupil/teacher ratio at 45:1 at the basic level
- Increase the quota of graduate teachers of Gambian nationality at the level of senior secondary from 66% to 95% by 2030

OTHER MINISTRIES AND LEG

Please indicate if this commitment was endorsed by other ministries as relevant, including the ministry of finance, and has been shared with the LEG:

Yes